



November 2013

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### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR Mikael Gustafsson

The [FEMM committee](#) is looking forward to its coming meetings on 25 and 26 November. The first session begins with a workshop entitled: Barcelona Targets Revisited. The purpose is to shed light on the correlation between childcare facilities

and gender equality and to examine how far the different Member States have arrived in their commitments since 2002. Several studies witness that, policies for better work-life balance, in particular child care services, are key to women's employment and economic independence. But what are the consequences of the economic crises and the cuts in the social welfare sector? This workshop will provide us important indications. Combating men's violence against women remains a top priority in FEMM. To date, the EC has denied the need for binding legislation at EU level. We will once again highlight this issue in a draft report and welcome the Commission, the Member States and the civil society to take part in our work towards a strong and comprehensive EU legal instrument on this topic. One of our important votes will be on the draft report on Sexual and reproductive health and rights that was referred back to the committee during the previous plenary session.

### 25-26 NOVEMBER – MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- ⌚ Combating violence against women
- ⌚ Undocumented women migrants in the European Union
- ⌚ Return management: Cooperation with third countries, effective implementation of agreements and the practical implementation of the return directive
- ⌚ Participation of the Union in the active and assisted living research and development programme jointly undertaken by several member states
- ⌚ European Commission's 7th and 8th progress reports on the EU Cohesion policy and the Strategic report 2013 on programme implementation 2007-2013

### THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON

- ⌚ Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- ⌚ Saudi Arabia, its relations with the EU and its role in the Middle East and North Africa
- ⌚ The situation of fundamental rights in the European Union (2012)
- ⌚ Disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large companies and groups

- ⌚ Social protection for all, including self-employed workers

### WORKSHOP

- ⌚ "Barcelona targets revisited" (childcare)

#### Date and Venue:

Monday, 25 November 2013, 16.00-18.30

Tuesday, 26 November 2013, 9.00-12.30

Altiero Spinelli, room 1G-2, Brussels

[Live Web streaming on the meetings here.](#)

### COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

#### Consideration of draft report and of accompanying European added value assessment

Rapporteur: **Antonya Parvanova** (ALDE)



The Rapporteur will present her [draft report](#) that builds on the [working document](#) and the constructive debate it has generated among Members and stakeholders in the past months. The draft report requests the Commission to submit, by the end of 2014, a proposal for a regulation establishing measures to promote and support the action of Member States in the field of prevention of violence against women. Besides, an assessment on the European added value of the proposal will be presented, including two studies concerning respectively the necessity and effects of intervention at EU level, and the economic aspects and legal perspectives.

### Vote - SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

#### Adoption of report

Rapporteur: **Edite Estrela** (S&D)



The Plenary in October referred back to the committee (pursuant to Rule 175 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament) the [report](#) of rapporteur Estrela, on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. FEMM Members and their respective groups have the opportunity to table split votes to the original text and vote on it a second time. This procedure might lead to a modified report which is planned to be voted in Plenary in December.

## UNDOCUMENTED WOMEN MIGRANTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Consideration of amendments

Rapporteur: **Norica Nicolai** (ALDE)



The [draft report](#) points out all the key areas of social life in which undocumented women are highly susceptible to violations of their fundamental and human rights, becoming most vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination. It assesses the obstacles they face with

regards to housing, healthcare services, education, and fair working conditions and access to justice. Furthermore the report stipulates a series of proposals on how the fundamental rights of undocumented migrants can be protected and ensured at EU and Member States level. At this committee meeting the rapporteur will give its opinion on the [69 amendments](#) tabled, the final adoption is scheduled for the 16 of December in FEMM committee.

## RETURN MANAGEMENT: COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS AND THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RETURN DIRECTIVE

### Consideration of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: **Rosa Estaràs Ferragut** (EPP)



In this [draft opinion](#), the rapporteur points out that Return Directive provides for rules concerning return, removal, detention and re-entry, which should take full account of compliance with the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people concerned and that the gender perspective should be a fully

integrated aspect of its implementation. Another important aspect is that particular attention should be paid in the implementation of the directive to the specific characteristics of the people concerned, such as pregnancy, family situation, dependent children or elderly persons, children during their school term, persons being victims of trafficking or gender-based violence, and to their specific needs.

## PARTICIPATION OF THE UNION IN THE ACTIVE AND ASSISTED LIVING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME JOINTLY UNDERTAKEN BY SEVERAL MEMBER STATES

### Consideration of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: **Chrysoula Paliadeli** (S&D)



This [opinion](#) is based on a Commission proposal for a decision by the Council and Parliament to provide the legal means for the participation by the European Union in the active and assisted living joint programme undertaken by several Member States. The programme

deals mainly with Information and Communication Technology based products for active and healthy

aging, as well as leverage private investments and improve conditions for industrial exploitation by providing a coherent framework for developing European approaches and solutions. The FEMM rapporteur saw that the gender aspect would not be neglected and suggested a couple of amendments to the Commission proposal accordingly. The opinion will be voted in FEMM committee the 16 of December.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S 7TH AND 8TH PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE EU COHESION POLICY AND THE STRATEGIC REPORT 2013 ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION 2007-2013

### Consideration of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: **Vilija Blinkevičiūtė** (S&D)



The Members of the committee will discuss the [draft opinion](#) for the attention of the REGI-committee. The latest reports of the European Commission with regards to the EU Cohesion Policy demonstrate the growing importance of cohesion policy funds as a source of

investment in times of economic crisis. In this context the draft opinion underlines the importance of integrating a gender equality requirement in the cohesion policy programmes and calls for the specific use of this funding to promote equal economic independence for women and men, to combat the feminisation of poverty and to further develop care facilities for a better reconciliation of work and family life.

## VOTE - SAUDI ARABIA, ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EU AND ITS ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

### Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: **Barbara Matera** (EPP)



Whilst welcoming and encouraging the recent efforts made by the Saudi authorities to promote and defend women's rights in the country, the [draft opinion](#) asks to make further commitments for a better gender equality policy and to ensure an efficient implementation of the existing measures. In particularly, it

insists on the barriers to women's freedom of movement and on all forms of violence suffered by women and girls.

## VOTE - THE SITUATION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2012

### Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: **Antigoni Papadopoulou** (S&D)



FEMM will vote on its [opinion](#), which calls on the Commission and the Member States to take account of women's needs and concerns when drawing up legislation and analysing the situation of fundamental rights in the EU, and to monitor thoroughly the implementation of European

legislation relating to gender equality in Member States. 30 amendments have been tabled and the Rapporteur has suggested some compromise amendments.

## Vote - DISCLOSURE OF NON-FINANCIAL AND DIVERSITY INFORMATION BY CERTAIN LARGE COMPANIES AND GROUPS

### Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: **Mojca Kleva Kekuš** (S&D)



This proposal for a Directive sets a requirement for certain large companies to disclose relevant non-financial and diversity information, ensuring a level playing field across the EU. Enhanced transparency on diversity policies can make a considerable contribution to the promotion of equal treatment and

to the fight against any discrimination in decision-making bodies of the companies concerned and beyond. The FEMM [opinion](#) allows to strengthen the gender perspective of this proposal. The rapporteur considers that in order to achieve the objectives of gender diversity in large companies and groups, companies need to develop policies that enable women to balance family and professional life. 31 amendments have been tabled to this draft opinion.

## Vote - SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL, INCLUDING SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS

### Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: **Marije Cornelissen** (Greens/EFA)



The [draft opinion](#) stresses that self-employed women in particular face obstacles in terms of individual access to and take-up of social security rights and that these obstacles have a long-term negative effect on the acquisition of social security rights. The rapporteur proposes several concrete measures

in order to improve the situation of self employed women, such as access to collective and solidarity based insurance and pension schemes for self-employed, availability of affordable childcare facilities, a future ambitious revision of Directive 2010/41/EU in order to guarantee higher standards for minimum maternity and paternity rights. 50 amendments have been tabled to this opinion.

## WORKSHOP - BARCELONA TARGETS REVISITED

In 2002, the European Council decided in Barcelona to set targets for the availability of childcare facilities. Member States agreed to provide childcare to at least 90% of children between 3 years old and the mandatory school age and to at least 33% of children under 3 years of age by 2010. The Workshop organised by the Policy Department will take stock of the situation in Belgium, France, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, and Slovakia. Besides, analyses will be presented as regards to the effects of the crisis

and to what extent the offer of childcare services has been combined with other policies to encourage female employment and the reconciliation of work and family life. The Workshop will be followed by an [online discussion](#) on EIGE's EuroGender homepage on Tuesday, 26 November 2013 from 9.00 to 17.00.

To get more information about the programme and the registration please click [here](#).

**WORKSHOP**  
POLICY DEPARTMENT  
CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

**BARCELONA TARGETS REVISITED**

**Monday**  
**25 November 2013**  
**from 4 pm to 6:30 pm**

**ASP 1G2**  
**Altiero Spinelli**  
**Brussels**

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality  
Chaired by Mikael Gustafsson, MEP

Followed by an online discussion on Tuesday, 26 November 2013  
Please register at <http://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/>

## 27 NOVEMBER, 10.00 - 10.50, ROOM ASP 1G3 Joint debate with the Committee on Fisheries

### SPECIFIC ACTIONS IN THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY FOR DEVELOPING THE ROLE OF WOMEN

#### Consideration of draft report

Co-Rapporteurs:

FEMM: **Raül Romeva i Rueda** (Greens/EFA) and  
PECH: **Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo** (S&D)

FEMM Committee jointly with the Committee on Fisheries will hold a joint debate on the [report](#). Consideration of the report follows the Joint Public hearing on Developing the role of women in European Fisheries and Aquaculture both Committees organised on 14 October 2013. The report indicates that the contribution of women working in the fisheries sector and in family businesses is often invisible, and they are only rarely granted employment status. The draft report examines the problems faced by women in the sector and proposes recommendations for the Common Fisheries Policy.

#### Details of the next meeting

5 December 2013, 15.00-18.30, Brussels